



GRADE

7

KENTUCKY

K-PREP

Kentucky Performance Rating For Educational Progress

READING SAMPLE ITEMS

Spring 2012



The following are the general guides that will be used to evaluate your responses to short-answer and extended-response questions in this test.

Kentucky Short-Answer Questions General Scoring Guide

Score Point 2

- You complete all components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and/or processes.
- You provide a correct answer using an accurate explanation as support.

Score Point 1

- You provide a partially correct answer to the question and/or address only a portion of the question.
- You demonstrate a partial understanding of the concepts and/or processes.

Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.

Kentucky Extended-Response Questions General Scoring Guide

Score Point 4

- You complete all important components of the question and communicate ideas clearly.
- You demonstrate in-depth understanding of the relevant concepts and/or processes.
- Where appropriate, you choose more efficient and/or sophisticated processes.
- Where appropriate, you offer insightful interpretations or extensions (generalizations, applications, analogies).

Score Point 3

- You complete most important components of the question and communicate clearly.
- You demonstrate an understanding of major concepts even though you overlook or misunderstand some less-important ideas or details.

Score Point 2

- You complete some important components of the question and communicate those components clearly.
- You demonstrate that there are gaps in your conceptual understanding.

Score Point 1

- You show minimal understanding of the question.
- You address only a small portion of the question.

Score Point 0

- Your answer is totally incorrect or irrelevant.

Blank

- You did not give any answer at all.

Read the following factual article and personal account of the historic Mount St. Helens eruption. Then answer the questions that follow.

Jamie's Journal

September 10, 1979

- 1 We had an awesome time last weekend! We packed up our tents and camping gear and headed to Mount St. Helens for some rest and relaxation. We certainly weren't up to hiking the mountain, which is taller than any skyscraper I've ever seen in the city! Actually, that's an understatement. This mountain is over 9,000 feet high! That's ten times the height of Seattle's tallest building!
- 2 We hauled our gear along a trail leading to the shores of Spirit Lake, a place where I've camped with my family since I was a kid. The bright blue water was flawless, like an azure mirror that generated a replica of the equally flawless sky. The surrounding meadows were covered with millions of lupines, purple flowers that cling like clamshells to dozens of tiny stems. As we rounded the final bend toward our campsite, we surprised three large elk! (Truthfully, *they* surprised *us*!) I suppose this lake is enticing enough to attract creatures from every species!
- 3 We felt like kids, telling stories around a campfire, roasting marshmallows, and competing to make the most elaborate finger puppet shadows on the walls of our tent. When our eyes began to dim by the light of the fire, we called it a day. Mount St. Helens kept silent watch all night long as we slept a peaceful slumber in our sleeping bags.

May 18, 1980

- 4 I have been glued to the television all day. It seems so impossible. I can scarcely believe my eyes! Mount St. Helens has erupted, and from what reporters are saying on the news, this once stunning mountain has been ravaged by landslides and ash. I can even see the plume of ash from here in Seattle, and it looks like something from a science fiction movie. Surely this all can't be real!
- 5 We've been advised to stay indoors because the ash cloud is so large that it will make the air difficult to breathe, even up here in the city. We've already seen little specks, sinister little snowflakes, falling from the sky. I keep thinking about all that ash covering every single thing around that beautiful place I have loved my whole life.

**August 25, 1980**

- 6 Now that the ash has cleared, we've all seen the first pictures from the ground near Mount St. Helens. On one side of the mountain, everything's green and robust, but just on the other side, the ghostly remnants of trees are all that remain. They look like gigantic toothpicks standing guard over a desolate planet. How odd that the blast spared one side of the mountain but showed no pity toward the other!
- 7 The first pictures of Spirit Lake reveal something much different from what I remember. The surface of the water is largely concealed by a patchwork quilt of toothpicks—the trees that were carried into the lake by the landslide. Where there is water, it appears murky and lifeless, far removed from the marble blue of a year ago. The landscape is so distorted that I can't even pinpoint where my friends and I camped last year. I can't even recognize it as Spirit Lake, even though I've been camping there since I was a kid.
- 8 The whole blast zone is bleak and beaten and so very, very sad.

June 1, 1981

- 9 I heard some great news today! Researchers at Mount St. Helens discovered a lupine, of all things, growing on the blighted slope of the mountain! Maybe there is hope after all! Maybe this once scenic place can live to tell its stories to my children and grandchildren someday. Maybe it can again be a jewel on the golden crown of the Cascades. I am ever hopeful and will be watching for more news of life's return to Mount St. Helens! If a lonely lupine can survive such a catastrophe, surely other species can make their return as well!

Mount St. Helens

Background

- 1 Mount St. Helens is located in southern Washington State, along the Cascade Mountain Range. Although the mountain was named after a British ambassador in 1792, native peoples long ago referred to it in their own tongues as "smoking mountain." The youngest mountain of all those in the Cascades, Mount St. Helens is more than a rocky peak. A rich history of eruptions makes Mount St. Helens the most active volcano in the country.

Eruption History Before May 1980

- 2 Prior to 1980, Mount St. Helens had erupted multiple times over a period of four thousand years. Geologists noticed that these eruptions occurred about every 150 years,

and they had warned the public that there would likely be another eruption before the end of the twentieth century. On a cold March morning in 1980 that is exactly what happened; Mount St. Helens erupted, setting off a chain of dozens of eruptions that continued for about twenty-five years. The tiny eruption of March 27, 1980, released only a small amount of steam and ash from the summit of the mountain. Although a surprise to residents of the Pacific Northwest, most Americans paid no heed to this turn of events. Geologists, however, saw this as their own warnings coming true.

Eruption of May 1980

- 3 Nearly two months later, on May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted on an unbelievably destructive scale. Pressure from magma (molten rock deep within Earth) finally built to a point of violent release. The pressurized mountain blew its top, shooting ash twelve miles into the sky within minutes of the eruption. The effects of the ash were mind-boggling, as a blanket of ash settled like snow over an area of 22,000 square miles, which is nearly half the size of Kentucky. The ash was so thick that it obscured the sun to make it appear that it was nighttime, even though it was only just after 8:30 in the morning. The heat and heaviness of the ash suffocated all plant and animal life in the blast zone, including large species like elk and mountain goats. Some ash traveled on the wind to the East Coast in three days and even circled Earth within two weeks.
- 4 As the ash wreaked chaos on the atmosphere and land surrounding Mount St. Helens, the north side of the mountain crumbled to create the largest landslide in history. Spirit Lake, located in the path of the landslide, received the brunt of the blast, which dumped so much debris into the lake that its water level was raised by nearly two hundred feet. When the landslide reached the Toutle River, it was transformed into a lahar, a thick muddy mixture of water and debris that carried with it everything in its path. The result was huge deposits of trees, vegetation, and mud, measuring up to five hundred feet tall in some places at the foot of Mount St. Helens.
- 5 As the top of the mountain crumbled, the eruption delivered its last surprise in the form of a lateral (sideways) blast that traveled more than three hundred miles per hour. The blast was a heated wind fueled by the gases within the volcano, and it burned everything in its path, including about 230 square miles of forest. That's over three times the size of Washington, D.C.
- 6 The eruption changed the appearance of Mount St. Helens significantly. Once standing 9,677 feet at the summit, the blast removed 1,300 feet from the top and carved a huge hole in the north face. The once perfectly formed mountain now gaped open on the north side, looking more like a horseshoe than a volcano.



1

Which information in “Mount St. Helens” explains why Jamie has been advised to stay inside in “Jamie’s Journal”?

- A** The north side of the mountain crumbled to create the largest landslide in history.
- B** Mount St. Helens had erupted many times before 1980.
- C** Some people referred to Mount St. Helens as a “smoking mountain.”
- D** Thick ash fell over an area half the size of Kentucky.

2

Why do the authors of these passages compare Mount St. Helens to both a skyscraper and a horseshoe?

- A** To emphasize to the reader the interesting shapes a mountain can sometimes take
- B** To enable the reader to picture the mountain before and after the eruption
- C** To show a beautiful feature of Mount St. Helens
- D** To determine the location of Mount St. Helens

3

The authors of both passages discuss

- A** hopes for future rebuilding
- B** scientific studies and measurements
- C** detailed information about the eruption
- D** personal feelings about the devastation

4

Using information from both the passage and the journal, what does Jamie *most likely* mean when she says she hopes someday the mountain “can live to tell its stories”?

- A** Jamie’s children and others can also enjoy the mountain for a long time to come.
- B** Precious gems will be discovered because of the mountain eruption.
- C** Jamie’s family will forever tell others about the mountain.
- D** The mountain will continue to erupt.



5

Why might the author of “Jamie’s Journal” find the information in the last paragraph of “Mount St. Helens” helpful in writing the entry for August 25, 1980?

- A** The information in the “Mount St. Helens” paragraph uses figurative language that is found in the August 25 journal entry.
- B** The information in the “Mount St. Helens” paragraph includes a description of destroyed campsites that is found in the August 25 journal entry.
- C** The information in the “Mount St. Helens” paragraph provides factual details about the shape of the mountain that are found in the August 25 journal entry.
- D** The information in the “Mount St. Helens” paragraph provides statistics about the new height of the mountain that are found in the August 25 journal entry.

6

Which description of the two passages correctly compares “Jamie’s Journal” and “Mount St. Helens”?

- A** Both passages rely on personal anecdotes to add interest for a broader audience.
- B** “Jamie’s Journal” uses words and phrases to create vivid descriptions and images of the moment of the eruption, but “Mount St. Helens” relies on factual descriptions.
- C** Both passages use a simile to make the concluding paragraph more memorable.
- D** “Jamie’s Journal” contains more information about the time after the eruption, and “Mount St. Helens” includes more information about what happened during the eruption.



7

While the eruption of Mount St. Helens was a shock to Jamie, it did not shock scientists because _____.

Explain what background information led to the scientists' conclusions.

Rubric	
Score	Description
2	Readers provide all parts of the reasoning of the scientists and details. Readers provide all elements needed to draw the required conclusion about the scientific study.
1	Readers provide a partially correct answer, but do not detail the scientific study.
0	The student's response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Scoring Notes	

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE

1. Scientists was not shocked because A rich history of eruptions makes mount St. Helens the most active volcano in the country. Prior to 1980 mount St. Helens had erupted multiple times over a period of four thousand years. Geologists noticed that these eruptions occurred about every 150 years, they said it would most likely erupted before the twentieth century, and that is what happened.

ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE

The student explains why the eruption of Mount St. Helens did not shock scientists (*A rich history of eruptions makes Mount St. Helens the most active volcano in the country*) and provides full background information that led to the scientists' conclusion (*Prior to 1880 Mount St. Helens had erupted multiple times over a period of four thousand years.... eruptions occurred about every 150 years, they said it would most likely erupted before the twentieth century*).

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE

1. While the eruption of Mount St. Helens was a shock to Jamie, it did not shock scientists because they predicted its eruption. Their prediction was accurate because the pattern of the volcano is every 150 years.

ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE

The student explains why the eruption of Mount St. Helens did not shock scientists (*they predicted its eruption.... Their prediction was accurate*) and provides partial background information that led to the scientists' conclusion (*the pattern of the volcano is every 150 years*).

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

1. As the top of the mountain crumbled the eruption delivered its last surprise in the form of a lateral (side-ways) blast that traveled more than three hundred miles per hour.

ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE

The response is completely irrelevant. The student only describes the eruption of Mount St. Helens (*the top of the mountain crumbled...a lateral [sideways] blast that traveled...more than three hundred miles per hour*).



8

Using “Jamie’s Journal” and “Mount St. Helens,” compare and contrast Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake both before and after the eruption on May 18, 1980.

Rubric	
Score	Description
4	The student completes all important components of the comparison and communicates the ideas effectively. The student shows an in-depth understanding of the relevant elements of the comparison. The student offers insightful interpretations or extensions where appropriate.
3	The student covers most of the important elements. The student overlooks or misunderstands some of the details of the comparisons.
2	The student completes some of the comparisons. The student has gaps in the understanding and connection of the two elements.
1	The student shows only minimal understanding. The student does not compare and contrast both elements in the item.
0	The student’s response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Scoring Notes	

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 4-POINT RESPONSE

2. Before the eruption of Mount St. Helens it and Spirit Lake and Mount St. Helens was both different and the same. They were the same because the both had undescrivable beauty. Jamie's Journal says this about Spirit Lake (before the eruption), "The bright blue water was flawless, like an azure mirror that generated a replica of the equally flawless sky." Jamie's Journal states this about Mount St. Helens, "On one side of the mountain, everything's green and robust. . . ." However the two land features differed as well. Spirit Lake is obviously a lake and Mount St. Helens is obviously a mountain. So these land forms are both similar and different. After the eruption Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake still had similarities and differences. They were similar because they had both had a brutal beating from the violent eruption. Jamie's Journal says this about Mount St. Helens, "They look like gigantic toothpicks standing guard over a desolate planet." And this about Spirit Lake, "Where there is water it appears murky and lifeless." And also, "The landscape is so distorted. . . . last year." These physical features differ because basically all of Spirit Lake was destroyed. The water and all. However, One side of Mount St. Helens wasn't affected by the eruption at all. Jamie's Journal says, "On one side of the mountain everything's green. . . . the ghostly remnants of trees are all that ^{re-}main."

ANNOTATION — 4-POINT RESPONSE

The student provides a thorough comparison of Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake before the eruption (*both had undescrivable beauty.... 'The bright blue water was flawless, like an azure mirror.' ...about Mount St. Helens, 'On one side of the mountain, everything's is green and robust'*) and after the eruption (*about Mount St. Helens, '[trees] look like gigantic toothpicks standing guard over a desolate planet.'* *And about Spirit Lake, 'Where there is water it appears murky and lifeless'*). The student insightfully contrasts the degree of devastation after the eruption (*basically all of Spirit Lake was destroyed. The water and all. However, one side of Mount St. Helens wasn't affected.... 'On one side of the mountain everything's green'*).

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 3-POINT RESPONSE

2. In Jamie's Journal, both Mount St. Helen, and Spirit Lake were both flawless. They had surprising creatures from all species there. Mount St. Helen was a rocky peak and Spirit Lake was like an azure mirror that generated a replica of the flawless sky. When Mount St. Helen erupted, half of it was flawless and half was ash. The whole lake was filled with trees, and the water was murky. In Mount St. Helen after the eruption the whole mountain was destroyed, it removed 1,300 feet from the 9,677 feet mountain with is now 8,377 feet tall. The Spirit Lake recieved so much debris that the water level rised nearly two hundred feet. The burst took out almost 230 square miles of forest. Ash covered an area over 22,000 square miles, nearly half the size of kentucky. The mountain looks more like a horseshoe than a volcano.

ANNOTATION — 3-POINT RESPONSE

The student provides a generally complete comparison of Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake before the eruption (*both flawless. They had surprising creatures and species there. Mount St. Helen was a rocky peak and Spirit Lake was like an azure mirror that generated a replica of the flawless sky*) and after the eruption (*Mount St. Helen...half of it was ash. The whole lake was filled with trees, and the water was murky.... the whole mountain was destroyed, it removed 1,300 feet from the 9,677 feet mountain.... Spirit Lake recieved so much debris that the water level rised nearly two hundred feet.... The mountain looks more like a horseshoe than a volcano*).

Annotated Student Response**SAMPLE 2-POINT RESPONSE**

2. Before the eruption Mount St. Helens was a beautiful place. It was full of vegetation and animal life. The volcano was no harm to the community and looked like the rest of the mountains. Spirit Lake was the same; beautiful and full of life. After the eruption Mount St. Helens was an ugly place. Half of the mountain was untouched. While the other side was full of ash and lava. The ash got so bad the news cast put advisories because the ash spread out through the state. And at Spirit Lake ash, trees, and dead animals floated into the lake and went downstream to Toutle River. There it turned into a lahar, which is thick mud and ash.

ANNOTATION — 2-POINT RESPONSE

The student provides some details to compare Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake before the eruption (*Mount St. Helens was a beautiful place.... full of vegetation and animal life.... looked like the rest of the mountains. Spirit Lake was the same: beautiful and full of life*) and some details to compare the volcano and the lake after the eruption (*Mount St. Helens was an ugly place.... full of ash and lava.... And Spirit Lake ash, trees, and dead animals floated into the lake.... turned into a lahar, which is thick mud and ash*).

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 1-POINT RESPONSE

2. Mount St. Helens before the eruption had a vast amount of grass, flowers, and plants and animals. Some of the plants and animals were Lupines and Elks.

The Spirit Lake before the eruption of Mount St. Helens was filled with wildlife and trees. The Spirit Lake was almost like a mirror, you could see your reflection in it. The Lake was also home to many plants and animals.

ANNOTATION — 1-POINT RESPONSE

The student minimally compares Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake before the eruption (*Mount St. Helens before the eruption has a vast amount of grass, flowers, and plants and animals.... Lupines and Elks. The Spirit Lake before the eruption...was filled with wildlife and trees.... almost like a mirror, you could see your reflection in it.... home to many plant and animals*). No details are provided to compare or contrast Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake after the eruption.

Annotated Student Response

SAMPLE 0-POINT RESPONSE

2. Comparisons of Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake are:

- They were both distorted by the volcanic eruption.

- Both are camping sites.

Differences of Mount St. Helens and Spirit Lake are:

Spirit Lake

- a lake

-

Mount St. Helens

- a volcano, mountain

-

ANNOTATION — 0-POINT RESPONSE

The student's response is irrelevant (*both distorted by the volcanic eruption. Both are camping sites....*
Spirit Lake • a lake / Mount St. Helens • a volcano, mountain).

Item Information

Question Number	Key	DOK*	KCAS Primary Standard**
1	D	1	RI.7.3
2	B	3	RI.7.2
3	C	2	RI.7.9
4	A	2	RL.7.4
5	C	2	RI.7.1
6	D	1	RL.7.1
7	NA	2	RI.7.8
8	NA	3	RI.7.9

*DOK is the abbreviation for Depth of Knowledge. Please note that DOK is associated to the complexity level of an assessment item and is not aligned to the standard. Further information regarding DOK can be accessed on the Kentucky Department of Education website: <http://www.education.ky.gov/kde/instructional+resources/curriculum+documents+and+resources/core+content+for+assessment/core+content+for+assessment+4.1/content+specific+core+content+for+assessment+dok+support+materials.htm>.

**Further information regarding Common Core Standards can be accessed on the Common Core website: <http://www.corestandards.org>.